Public issue of BSNL

†416. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to issue equity share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) in the market;

(b) if so, by when Government is going to take this decision and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has received any Memorandum in protest of issuance of equity shares in the market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government is contemplating to offer part of its Equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer for sale to the public due to the following reasons:

- It will facilitate BSNL to get Navratna status.
- Useful for improving the image of BSNL.
- Will promote growth of BSNL.

The timing of the issue depends on the conditions of the capital market.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Joint Forum of BSNL Unions and Associations of BSNL employees had given notice for indefinite strike from 26.2.2008 against the IPO proposal of BSNL. The advantage of listing of BSNL shares were explained to the representatives of Joint Forum. The proposed strike had been deferred by the Joint Forum.

Special audit of R-Comm

417. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen newspaper report captioned "Cautious DoT to check ties of Reliance Communication (R-Comm) special auditor", appearing in Financial Express, New Delhi on the 27th January, 2009;

(b) if so, whether DoT have decided to do a special audit of R-Comm on charges of concealing real revenue from Government;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the procedure being adopted by DoT for short listing of auditors to ensure that auditor have no relationship with other R-Comm companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.